

Contributed

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Barbour County.

Barbour is a very irregular county, made from Randolph, Lewis and Harrison. It is drained by Tygart's river.

James Barbour (1775-1842), a native of Orange county, began his career as a lawyer at the early age of 19. He sat in the House of Delegates (1796-1812) and was then elected governor (1812-14). He pledged his private fortune to equip soldiers in a second war with Great Britain. He entered the Senate (1815-25) and John Quincy Adams made him Secretary of State (1825) and Minister to Great Britain (1828). He was staunch Whig and nominated William H. Harrison for the presidency.

The town of Philippi receives its classic name in a most unusual way—from Philip P. Barbour (1783-1841), brother to James. He was a great lawyer and politician, speaker of the House of Representatives (1821), judge of the General Court (1825), member of Congress (1827-29), president of the Virginia Constitutional Convention (1829). He entered the Supreme Court of the U. S. (1829), and was a candidate for the vice-presidency (1832). Philip was as strong a Democrat as James was a Whig.

A small force of Confederates under General Porterfield was driven out of this county (June 3, 1861,) and this section was lost to Virginia and the South.

The first permanent settlement in all the northwestern wilderness was made in this county. Four soldiers deserted from Fort Pitt (1761). Two of them, John and Samuel Pringle after many adventures settled on the Buchanan Branch of Tygarts river. They lived for an entire year in a hollow tree. Samuel persuaded others to come from the South Branch of the Potomac. John Jackson and his two sons, George and Edward, settled on Turkey Run, Capt. James Booth, on Booth's Creek. The county had a fair number of settlers before 1770.

Taylor County.

Barbour county was divided almost as soon as organized, and with parts of the new county of Marion and the old county of Harrison, formed Taylor. It is today a small but wealthy county bisected by the lower waters of Tygarts river. The name was conferred for John Taylor of Carolina (1750-1824). Senator Taylor was a native of Orange, educated at William and Mary he became an enthusiastic, scientific farmer. He followed Richard Henry Lee in the Senate (1742-99). He was noted as an ardent defender of the rights of the States and as a prolific writer and speaker on political subjects.

Grafton was "so named by the Baltimore & Ohio railway, because they grafted a branch from this point to Wheeling." Fetterman received its name from the owner of the land on which it is situated. He was a citizen of Pittsylvania.

Doddridge County.

The great county of Harrison was divided five times in three years. In 1845 with adjacent parts of Tyler, Ritchie, and Lewis, Har-

rison forms Doddridge. The constant organization of these new counties gives a clear idea of the unprecedented growth of this part of Virginia.

When Doddridge was named, the Legislature at Richmond very appropriately selected a man from the extreme northwest for the honor. Most of our western names had been taken from Eastern Virginia, or from Revolutionary patriots.

Philip Doddridge was born (1772) at Wellsburg, Brooke county. He studied law and entered the Virginia Legislature (1815). He was a valuable member of the Constitutional Convention of 1829. He served in Congress (1829-32) and gained so great a reputation as an orator that he was called the Patrick Henry of the West. His brother, Rev. Joseph Doddridge, an Episcopal clergyman, is well known as the author of "Logan" and "Notes on the Settlement of the Western Country."

Appomattox County.

The other county erected in 1845, was far to the east. Appomattox was carved from Buckingham, Prince Edward, Charlotte and Campbell, and is the youngest county of Southern Virginia. This part of the State has now taken its permanent form and the county lines thereabout have not been disturbed since Appomattox was organized.

The name is that of the river that takes its rise in the undulating plains of the county. Appomattox is young, but its fame has filled the world. Here Gen. Lee surrendered to Gen. Grant (Apr. 9, 1865), in the parlor of the home of W. McLean. The two great soldiers met Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock, the papers were signed an hour later. Lee paroled 26,000 men, only 9,000 of whom had arms. Here the unequal and unequalled struggle came to an end, and State and Nation began a distinctively new phase of life. Jamestown and Yorktown alone excepted, Appomattox Court House is the most historic spot in Virginia.

Highland County.

As Appomattox settled the boundaries of Southern Virginia, so Highland, by its organization the next year (1846) gave permanent form to that section of the two States that surround it. It is evident that the older State is fast settling down to its permanent forms. Pendleton to the West and Bath to the South gave of their lands to make Highland. The county holds a great elbow saved to Virginia when the interstate line was run. It also holds the head spring of James river. Only by the slightest margin did Virginia retain undivided the valley of the James.

That she did so is due to Stonewall Jackson and his famous victory at the town of McDowell in the valley of the Bull Pasture. This town carries the name of Gov. James McDowell, of Lexington.

The ultimate head spring of the James is a wild ravine under the shadow of Red Oak Knob of the Alleghany mountains.

TO DO MY WORK BETTER.

Not long ago a woman, no longer young, was asked why she had taken up work in a training school, when she said that she might do her work better. "But you do not even teach in the Sunday-school." "No, but I have my five children to train, and I feel the need of help."

The Assembly's Training School at Richmond is offering this help, not only to girls preparing for mission work at home or abroad, to Sunday-school teachers, to Presbyterian officers, but to any who feel that further knowl-

edge of the Bible and of Him who gave it, would be a gain. There are women in our churches, weary of the social round, who would find new interest in life from a year of study here.

Our people generally do not realize the great opportunity. The Seminary gives its great professors, enriching this school beyond all others. One who knows these men well says that probably nowhere are six such men working together, so scholarly, so beautiful in Christian life, so courteous and accessible to the learner. Yet, so diverse that the student gets the truth well rounded, its jewel flashing from many facets.

Then there is the dean, giving time and thought and his immense energies, yet—as the students say—ready to help each one, studying the comfort, advantage and pleasure of the students. The city pastors give of their ripe scholarship. The "beloved physicians" and nurses train for Red Cross and first aid service. Some of the noblest women share their fruitful experience in Sunday-school and other work. And the whole community provides an atmosphere in which spiritual life prospers.

The school grows apace. Beginning with three students its third year finds more than sixty on its roll. Its course is broad and flexible. A diploma for the regular, a certificate in a partial course; yet "hearers" enjoy and "absorb" instruction who are unable to do much out of class. There is even a night class for girls working by day and busy mothers; and this course is free.

Richmond Presbyterians have entirely supported the school these three years, as agreed, but henceforth it looks to the whole Church for its upbuilding, as also agreed. The three-acre lot near the Seminary waits for its \$50,000 building; the boarding students from Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Texas, Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky and Korea, overflow the two rented dwellings.

It is known that the splendid nine-story building of the pioneer training school in New York was the gift of one Presbyterian woman. We, perhaps, have no Helen Gould; but surely our Southern Church has ten women who could give \$5,000 each, and find new joy in life; and there are men who would help with magnificence for the memory of a mother or daughter.

Meantime there is sore need of a library. The Seminary is generous in sharing its books, but the hours are limited, not always convenient, and the girls are modest about demanding volumes the theologians are using. There are many "dumb" books shut up in shelves up and down the land, unused, that might be set free to help these earnest, intelligent girls training for the King's service. For they are "worthy for whom you should do this." We greatly need an unabridged dictionary, a good encyclopedia, a good Bible dictionary, such encyclopedia as Schaff, Herzog, a store of missionary volumes—these a bare beginning. And "money answereth all things." Try how a dollar will talk! "And whosoever is of a willing heart" may send books or money to Mrs. John R. Sampson, 512 Seminary Avenue, Richmond, Va. And all who read this are asked to pray for the work and the workers and for all who help.

The power of the Holy Spirit can make the weak strong. The man who tries to meet temptation in his own strength, is easily overcome; the man who lays hold on God's strength, is invincible.